

Message Text

SECRET

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17

ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 NEA-06 ISO-00 SS-14 SP-02 L-01 INR-05 PRS-01

RSC-01 /037 W

----- 116456

R 150618Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8404

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEBASSY TRIPOLI

CINCPAC

S E C R E T MANILA 13539

LIMDIS

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: AL TOHMAMY TALKS WITH SENIOR PHILIPPINE OFFICIALS

REF.: MANILA 13396

1. DEPARTURE OF AL TOHAMY HAS LEFT SENIOR PHILIPPINE OFFICIALS INCREASINGLY CONVINCED THAT THEIR WAR WITH MUSLIM SECESSION-ISTS IN SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES HAS BECOME A CONFRONTATION WITH RADICAL ARAB PAN-ISLAMISTS. THEY ARE ALSO CONVINCED THAT ARABS ARE ANTAGONISTIC TO INDONESIA AND PREPARED TO SCUTTLE INDONESINA MEDIATION EFFORTS WITH LOCAL MUSLIMS.

2. SECRETARY OF DEFENSE PONCE ENRILE AND EXECUTIVE SECRETARY MELCHOR BOTH SEPARATELY TOLD AMBASSADOR NOVEMBE 17 OF TOHAMY'S SWEEPING ARRONGANCE ("I CAN TOPPLE ANY CHIEF OF STATE IN THE WORLD IN 24 HOURS") AND OF TOUGH STAND HE TOOK IN DISCUSSIONS WITH MARCOS. THEY SAY THAT HE "CONFIRMED"

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THAT NUR MISUARI TAKES HIS ORDERS FROM QUADDAFI RATHER

THAN KUALA LUMPUR. THEY ALSO SAY THAT INDONESIA NO LONGER HAS CONTACT WITH MISUARI.

3. NET RESULT OF VISIT HAS BEEN DISILLUSION WITH WHOLE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE INVOLVEMENT IN THIS EFFORT AND FEAR THAT OIL-RICH AND POWER-COCKY ARABS WILL PUSH LOCAL MUSLIMS TO FURTHER AMBITIONS IN BATTLE FOR SECESSION. THEY NOTE THAT TUN MUSTAPHA HAS REPORTEDLY BEEN IN MIDDLE EAST RECENTLY AND FEAR THAT HE WILL BE MORE ACTIVELY INFECTED BY THE SAME VIRUS.

4. THUS FAR, THERE HAS BEEN NO RPT NO PHILIPPINE SUGGESTION THAT MALAYSIANS ARE INVOLVED IN THIS NEW PHASE OF CONFRONTATION. THEY BELIEVE INTERESTS OF KUALA LUMPUR SHOULD LIE IN A COMBINED EFFORT WITH INDONESIA TO DAMP DOWN EXTEMISM BEFBUE IT BECOMES AN ARMED ISSUE IN SABAH AS WELL. THEY HAVE NOT YET CALCULATED HOW TO ENGAGE KUALA LUMPUR CONSTRUCTIVELY, BUT OBVIOUSLY LOOK FORWARD TO SUHARTO-RAZAK-MARCOS SUMMIT MEETING TO MAKE THIS PITCH.

ARNOLD

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